



What is Co-operatives Victoria?

The Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd (Co-operatives Victoria) is the peak body for co-operatives in Victoria, and its mission is to develop and promote the co-operative model as a means of satisfying the economic and social needs of people.

International Year of Co-operatives 2012

By now your co-operative should have received the National Call to Action package of information from Social Business Australia and the industry-based International Year of Co-operatives Steering Committee about the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012. Co-operatives Victoria is represented on the Steering Committee through Co-operatives Australia.

Co-operatives Victoria commends the information pack to the attention of the directors, managers, employees and members of every registered co-operative in Victoria. The future of the co-operatives is at a cross-roads in its proud 167 year history. The United Nations declared *International Year of Co-operatives (IYC)* in 2012 is an unparalleled opportunity for all who believe in the value of co-operatives, to promote our form of business to the world. Your fullest participation in IYC 2012 will assist us to convince the various levels of government to take the co-operative form of business seriously and to consider the views of the sector closely when framing laws that affect our way of doing business. Your involvement will also help to combat the lack of knowledge about co-operatives and will assist us in promoting co-operatives as the business model for the 21st Century.

In addition to the action initiatives included in the IYC information pack, we propose a meeting in Victoria to discuss how Victorian co-operatives can contribute to IYC 2012. The meeting will be organised in February or March this year once there are sufficient expressions of interest.

Co-operatives Victoria plays an important role in disseminating Australian co-operative information via the Internet. As well as the main web site <http://www.victoria.coop> there are three specialist sub-domains :— <http://education.victoria.coop> <http://health.victoria.coop> and <http://news.victoria.coop> Copies of our most brochure are also enclosed.

Yours in co-operation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony O'Shea".

Tony O'Shea
Chairman
Co-operatives Victoria
28 January 2011

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